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CIRCULAR LETTER 71/2010  
3 November 2010

CHART SPECIFICATIONS OF THE IHO (S-4) AND  
SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED ON CHARTS (INT1)  
Small Craft (Leisure) Facilities Symbols

References: a) IHO Publication S-4, Part B: Chart Specifications of the IHO  
b) IHB CL39/2010 dated 14 June - *Small Craft (Leisure) Facilities Symbols*

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The Directing Committee would like to thank the following 36 Member States who replied to CL 39/2010 proposing the adoption of new and revised chart specifications and symbols: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep of), Latvia, Morocco, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine and UK.

2 The majority of responses were supportive of the proposed specifications. Nine Member States provided comments. These comments, together with explanatory responses where appropriate, are provided in Annex A.

3. As a result, and in accordance with the adoption process described in Specification B-160 of S-4, the new and revised specifications and symbols, with the minor amendments noted in Annex A, will be included in the next issue of S-4 and next edition of INT1.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD  
Director

Annex A: Member States' comments and explanatory responses

## MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

**AUSTRALIA**

Proposals for S-4: Australia has recently amended its specifications for the depiction of visitors' moorings on paper charts to show the symbol in accordance with the real-world shape and colour of the buoy, i.e. the appropriate symbol to reflect the shape and filled/open to indicate colour, with the small "ring" on top to indicate a mooring buoy. This specification ensures consistency between paper chart portrayal and corresponding encoding for Australian ENCs.

The new wording suggested for S-4 clause B-431.5 uses the word "must", indicating that if it is required to show a visitors mooring on a paper chart, the symbol Q45 must be used. If approved, this wording will render the Australian specification non-conformant with the IHO specifications. Australia would prefer to portray visitors' moorings on paper charts as they exist in the real world, rather than through use of a symbol that only gives an indication of the purpose of the buoy, and believes that this option should not be prohibited in S-4. Australia therefore suggests that the new additional wording for B-431.5 be amended as follows:

**A visitors' mooring** (for example in a marina) may be indicated by the symbol (height about 3 mm):



Use of the word "indicated" would be preferred to "shown" as the symbol is being used to indicate the function of the feature, and not necessarily the shape and colour of the feature. This wording would provide HOs with the option to show the mooring buoy in accordance with its actual physical characteristics, or indicate just the function of the feature.

Similarly, although Australia does not currently use the symbol to indicate a visitors' berth, it is considered that a similar situation may occur for these, i.e. the visitors' berth has a designation (letter or number) that a HO may wish to show rather than the suggested draft symbol. Australia would therefore like to suggest that the wording for B-323.2 be amended as follows:

**B-323.2 - A visitors' berth** (for example in a marina) may be indicated by the magenta symbol (diameter about 2.5mm):

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*As these symbols do not fall within the category of symbols for which standardization is essential (see S-4 B-110), Australia's request can be accommodated.*

Proposals for INT1: If a yacht club or sailing club is defined as the building in which the club is situated, then Australia suggests that the symbol F11.3 be in black, to be consistent with the guidance for use of colour at B-140 (black indicating a physical (solid) feature). If this change is approved, then the word "magenta" must be removed from the new wording related to yacht/sailing clubs at B-320.2.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*A symbol for a physical flagstaff already exists (E27); thus there is not justification for another one. The proposed magenta symbol is not intended to represent a physical flagstaff (which may or may not actually be present at a yacht club), but to indicate the existence of a yacht club, in a similar way to the magenta symbol used to show the existence of a marina or fishing harbour, where the physical buildings, pontoons, etc, are shown in black.*

**CANADA**

**B-320.2** - We feel that the current specification adequately covers the generic need to chart these features. Further expansion by adding additional symbols to the chart are not required as this information is carried in Sailing Directions.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*This is the reason why the wording includes 'if required'. It is optional for HOs to use if they wish.*

**B-323.2 - A visitors' berth** - If a large harbour had numbered/lettered berths up to "V" (F19), as in 323.1, this new symbol (F19.2) could cause confusion for the mariner.

**B-431.5 - A visitors' mooring** having a "V" as part of the symbol could be interpreted as the name of the buoy and if it was not, the mariner could become confused about his location, and moor to the incorrect buoy.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*This is covered by Australia's proposed change of wording ('may' instead of 'must'). However, the symbols are sufficiently distinct from the standard berth and mooring buoy symbols that there should be no confusion if used.*

**B-368 - CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES** - With remote campsites being accessible by boat, a 'tent symbol' would be more logical than a 'caravan' symbol. We do not feel there is a need to differentiate the two types of camping facilities on a chart. In Canada we have traditionally used the letter "C" within a circle to identify a camp site, but we see the benefits of using a generic symbol as it would not have language interpretation issues as is associated with a "letter" symbol.

As for the changes to INT 1, we do not have any objections to the reorganization of this.

**CHILE** (Translation provided by IHB)

1.- We consider that it would not be adequate to move symbols U1.1, U1.2, U2, U3 and U4 to section F. Initially, it is mentioned that these symbols must be moved to section F of the INT1 as international symbols, to be used in nautical charts. This is not necessary as all the INT1 symbols are for their use in nautical charts. Likewise, section U is meant to represent the services and their characteristics, for the use of small craft. We think that the categorisation of Marina, Berth, Yacht Club or Sailing Club and the associated facilities, Mooring Buoy for Visitors (U1.1 to U4) shows in fact the characteristics of the services for small crafts. Finally, section F would not be adequate for symbols U1.1 to U4, as in this section are mentioned the types of harbour facilities in general (not for small or leisure crafts), in addition to the features of the coastline.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*Only the marina symbol (U1.1) has been an international (INT) symbol until now; no INT versions of U1.2, U2, U3 and U4 have ever existed. In reviewing other so-called small craft symbols (in accordance with a CSPCWG work item endorsed by HSSC), CSPCWG concluded that symbols showing the positions of yacht berths without facilities, visitors' berths, visitors' moorings and yacht clubs would be useful for navigational purposes. These should therefore be available as INT symbols and be included in the appropriate sections of INT1. Black versions of U5 and U7 already exist as INT symbols in Section F. Any other symbols for small craft facilities are a matter for national HOs to determine. It therefore seemed appropriate to retain section U for such symbols. All other respondents are in agreement with that conclusion.*

2.- As well as symbols U29 and U30 that should be included in black in section E, we consider that symbols U27 (Public Car Park) and U28 (Parking for boats and trailers) could also be useful as an identification of approximate positions and, at the same time, be included in section E (in black) as terrestrial reference.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*CSPCWG considered which of the national small craft symbols may be useful for approximate position identification. While it is acknowledged that car parks and boat parks may occasionally be useful in that regard, generally these are located in built-up areas (the latter usually associated with a marina or yacht club) and therefore less useful amongst all the more important features that need to be shown on a chart. Camping sites, on*

the other hand, are often situated away from built-up areas and may provide the sole identifiable feature in an area. HO's are at liberty to decide on national symbols, or use a legend, if they consider it useful to identify car and boat parks.

3.- According to the survey, all the proposed changes and/or updating for S-4 must be in accordance with the adopted final resolutions.

#### **COLOMBIA** (Translation provided by IHB)

It's better to use only one symbol for this type of information and, should any additional information be required, this should be included in the sailing directions of each responsible body or hydrographic office.

This should be done avoiding the density of symbols on large scale charts or cells, also bearing in mind that other activities such as camping, towed and motorised caravans are not purely nautical activities.

#### **CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*Although most responding countries were content that the 'tent' symbol would cover caravan sites, a significant minority preferred to have both symbols available. Any nation can choose to use only the 'tent' symbol. B-368 will be changed accordingly.*

#### **GERMANY**

The diameter of the visitors' berth symbol F19.2 should be more adapted to the size of F19.1 (former F.19, diameter 3.5 mm).

The visitors' mooring symbol Q45 should be more adapted to the height of other spherical buoys (2.5 mm).

#### **CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*Although it was agreed that the size of new symbols should be precisely specified (S-4 B-110 refers), in this case the new symbols need to match existing symbols, which unfortunately vary in size in the three official versions of INT1 and S-4. Accordingly, the term 'about' has been used to imply the stated size is a guide; it is assumed that nations will align this symbol with their existing symbols. Experience shows that berth numbers are often constrained by available space around the depiction of a port, so the guide size chosen is at the lower end of the existing range. With regard to reassessing the mooring symbol, this should be based on a typical spherical buoy, plus an additional 0.5mm for the ring on top; accordingly the final wording will be adjusted to read 'about 2.5mm'.*

The tent symbol as it moved to a black one should be filled. We experienced the use of the black unfilled symbol in German topographic charts where it was always difficult to detect. In the newer editions of the topographic charts the symbol is changed to a black filled symbol which the user can detect much easier.

#### **CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*The UKHO has always used an open symbol and found it to be sufficiently visible, while a filled version appears to give more prominence to a feature of comparatively low importance compared with, for example, a tower symbol which is about the same height.*

#### **INDIA**

Caravan and camping sites are temporary and seasonal. If a particular area is occupied by caravans every year for a specific duration and is visible from the open sea, then the same may be informed to the mariner by adding a note on the respective HO's chart.

#### **CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*This can be done if considered necessary. However, in the opinion of the CSPCWG, it will not usually be necessary, since most mariners will naturally assume that campsites are likely to be occupied seasonally.*

#### **JAPAN**

We agree to the proposal of B-368.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

In a case where yacht berths existing within a yacht club. Most developing countries have yacht facilities with the yacht clubs. If required to be shown; combine F11.2 and F11.3.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*Symbol F11.2 is intended for use where there are no facilities; for example, where a port authority sets aside some berths for use by yachts, but does not provide any special facilities. In a marina or yacht club, it is assumed there will be facilities, so there should only be a need to show one symbol selected from F11.1-3.*

**PERU (Translation provided by IHB)**

2.- Only one symbology must be used for camping sites and caravans, as in such sites you have also towed and motorised caravans and tents.

**CSPCWG Chairman's comment:**

*A significant group of respondents wish to have both symbols available as INT symbols.*

*There were 22 votes in favour of using only one symbol, the 'tent' for camping and caravan sites. There were 13 votes in favour of having both symbols available. As this represents a significant minority, then both symbols will be included, with the specifications worded as follows (new words underlined):*

**B-368 CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES**

Caravan and camping sites should only be charted if they are likely to be visible from seaward, when they may provide useful identification features.

A site for towed and motorised caravans may ~~must~~ be shown, if required, by the symbol (height about 2.5mm):

 **E37.1**

A camping (or camping and caravan) site should ~~must~~ be shown, if required, by the symbol (height about 3.0 mm):

 **E37.2**

The tent symbol (E37.2) is suitable for use for combined camping and caravan sites and for sites dedicated only to caravans; however, the caravan symbol (E37.2) may be used only, if required, for sites dedicated only to caravans. For sites containing permanently sited large caravans (ie mobile homes) it would usually be more appropriate to treat as urban areas (D1).

If it is useful to show the extent of the site, the symbols may be shown within a black dashed line. The chart user will understand that in some areas such sites may be seasonal, so there is no need to include a note or legend stating that fact.